



United States Department of Agriculture

# BioPreferred Program Product Categories

June 2013

**BioPreferred**

[www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov)

<b>Construction</b>	<b>Minimum Biobased Content</b>
Blast Media	94%
Carpets	7%
Composite Panels:	
Acoustical	37%
<b>Countertops*</b>	<b>89%</b>
Interior Panels	55%
Plastic Lumber	23%
Structural Interior Panels	89%
Structural Wall Panels	94%
Floor Coverings (non-carpet)	91%
Interior Paints and Coatings:	
Latex and Waterborne Alkyd	20%
Oil-based and Solvent-borne Alkyd	67%
<b>Paint Removers*</b>	<b>41%</b>
Penetrating Liquids	79%
Plastic Insulating Foam for Residential and Commercial Construction	7%
Roof Coatings	20%
Wastewater Systems Coatings	47%
Water Tank Coatings	59%
Wood and Concrete Sealers:	
Membrane Concrete Sealers	11%
Wood and Concrete Stains	39%
<b>Groundskeeping</b>	<b>Minimum Biobased Content</b>
Agricultural Spray Adjuvants	50%
Animal Repellents	79%
Bioremediation Materials	86%
Compost Activators and Accelerators	95%
Concrete and Asphalt Cleaners	70%
Dethatchers	87%
Dust Suppressants	85%
Erosion Control Materials	77%
Fertilizers	71%
General Purpose De-Icers	93%
Mulch and Compost Materials	95%
Sorbents	89%
Water Clarifying Agents	92%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Minimum Biobased Content</b>
Bedding, Bed Linens, and Towels	12%
Candles and Wax Melts	88%
Thermal Shipping Containers:	
Durable	21%
Non-Durable	82%
Films:	
Non-Durable	85%
Semi-Durable	45%
Packing and Insulating Materials	74%
<b>Food Service</b>	<b>Minimum Biobased Content</b>
Disposable Containers	72%
Disposable Cutlery	48%
Disposable Tableware	72%
Food Cleaners	53%

<b>Janitorial</b>	<b>Minimum Biobased Content</b>
Adhesive and Mastic Removers	58%
Air Fresheners and Deodorizers	97%
Aircraft and Boat Cleaners:	
<b>Aircraft Cleaners*</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Boat Cleaners*</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Automotive Care Products*</b>	<b>75%</b>
Bathroom and Spa Cleaners	74%
Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners:	
General Purpose	54%
Spot Removers	7%
Dishwashing Products	58%
Electronic Components Cleaners	91%
Floor Cleaners and Protectors	77%
Floor Strippers	78%
Furniture Cleaners and Protectors	71%
General Purpose Household Cleaners	39%
Glass Cleaners	49%
Graffiti and Grease Removers	34%
Industrial Cleaners	41%
Ink Removers and Cleaners	79%
Laundry Products:	
General Purpose	34%
Pretreatment/Spot Removers	46%
Leather, Vinyl, and Rubber Care Products	55%
Metal Cleaners and Corrosion Removers:	
<b>Corrosion Removers*</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Stainless Steel Cleaners*</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Other Metal Cleaners*</b>	<b>56%</b>
Microbial Cleaning Products:	
<b>Drain Maintenance Products*</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>General Cleaners*</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Wastewater Maintenance Products*</b>	<b>44%</b>
Multipurpose Cleaners	56%
Oven & Grill Cleaners	66%
Specialty Precision Cleaners and Solvents	56%
<b>Personal Care</b>	<b>Minimum Biobased Content</b>
Animal Cleaning products	57%
Bath Products	61%
Cuts, Burns, and Abrasions Ointments	84%
Deodorants	73%
Foot Care Products	83%
Hair Care Products:	
Conditioners	78%
Shampoos	66%
Hand Cleaners and Sanitizers:	
Hand Cleaners	64%
Hand Sanitizers	73%
Lip Care Products	82%
Lotions and Moisturizers	59%
Shaving products	92%
Sun Care products	53%
Topical Pain Relief Products	91%

<b>Industrial Lubricants and Fluids</b>	<b>Minimum Biobased Content</b>
2-Cycle Engine Oils	34%
Asphalt and Tar Removers	80%
Asphalt Restorers	68%
Chain and Cable Lubricants	77%
Concrete and Asphalt Release Fluids	87%
Corrosion Preventatives	53%
Diesel Fuel Additives	90%
<b>Engine Crankcase Oil*</b>	<b>25%</b>
Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)	
Foam Recycling Products	90%
Firearm Lubricants	49%
Fluid-Filled Transformers:	
Synthetic Ester-Based	66%
Vegetable Oil-Based	95%
Forming Lubricants	68%
Fuel Conditioners	64%
<b>Gasoline Fuel Additives*</b>	<b>92%</b>
Gear Lubricants	58%
Greases:	
Food Grade	42%
Multipurpose	72%
Other	75%
Rail Track	30%
Truck	71%
Heat Transfer Fluids	89%
Hydraulic Fluids:	
Mobile Equipment	44%
Stationary Equipment	44%
Inks:	
Specialty Inks	66%
Sheetfed - Color	67%
Sheetfed - Black	49%
Printer Toner - <25 pages per minute (ppm)	34%
Printer Toner - >25 ppm	20%
News	32%
Metalworking Fluids:	
General Purpose Soluble, Semi-Synthetic, and Synthetic Oils	57%
High Performance Soluble, Semi-Synthetic, and Synthetic Oils	40%
Straight Oils	66%
Multipurpose Lubricants	88%
Parts Wash Solution	65%
Penetrating Lubricants	68%
Pneumatic Equipment Lubricants	67%
Slide Way Lubricants	74%
Turbine Drip Oils	87%
<b>Water Turbine Bearing Oils*</b>	<b>46%</b>

\*products indicate newly designated Round 10 categories. For definitions of these categories visit <http://www.biopreferred.gov/ProductsCategories.aspx>

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# BIOPREFERRED PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**BioPreferred**

[www.biopREFERRED.gov](http://www.biopREFERRED.gov)

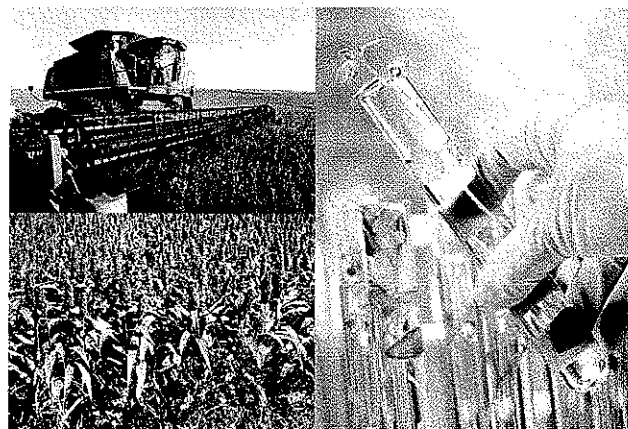
## USDA's BioPreferred Program

The goal of BioPreferred is to increase the development, purchase and use of biobased products through two initiatives: procurement preference by Federal Agencies and their contractors, and voluntary product certification and labeling for consumers.

## Biobased Products Defined

Biobased products are finished commercial or industrial products (other than feed, food, or fuel) that are composed in whole, or in significant part, of biological products -- renewable agricultural materials (including plant, animal and marine materials) or forestry materials.

Biobased products also include biobased intermediate/'upstream' materials such as bioresins or biopolymers, or feedstocks such as succinic acid. Biobased products do not include fossil fuels such as coal or petroleum, motor vehicle fuels, heating oil and electricity produced from biomass (biological material from living or recently living organisms, most commonly used as a renewable energy source).



## Federal Procurement Preference

The US Government and its contractors are required by law to purchase products that are biobased. The BioPreferred program identifies -- via a regulatory process called designation -- which types of products must be afforded this procurement preference. As a part of this process, a minimum biobased content is specified for each product category, and information on the technical, health and environmental characteristics of these products is made available on the BioPreferred Web site. Biobased products that had a significant market share in 1972 do not qualify for Federal procurement preference or for certification and labeling. For example, cotton T-shirts are biobased, but are considered a 'mature market product' and are ineligible since a significant portion of the T-shirt market, as of 1972, consisted of cotton-based products.

## Voluntary Certification and Labeling

The consumer-focused portion of BioPreferred is designed to empower individuals to consider the verified amount of biobased content in a product. This content is listed on the certified product's label. The biobased label is intended to be:

- Easy to understand
- Transparent by way of percent biobased content
- Cost-effective to the end user
- Proprietary and controlled

Biobased certification is based on a product's biobased (new carbon) content only, as measured by a standard test method (ASTM D6866). The BioPreferred program encourages manufacturers to share, with the program and with prospective buyers, other product attributes such as life cycle analysis (LCA), environmental and human health effects, life-cycle costs, sustainability benefits, and performance.

## Certified Biobased Product Eligibility

Products must be biobased to be eligible for certification and labeling. Products that fit into one of the designated Federal procurement preference categories must meet or exceed the required biobased content minimum for that category (Product categories and biobased content minimums may be found here.) All other products considered for certification must be at least 25 percent biobased unless the label applicant applies for and receives an alternative minimum biobased content. Mature market products, which are excluded from the federal procurement preference program, are also excluded from the voluntary labeling program.



## Application Requirements

Applicants must provide a variety of information about the product and pursue certification in a step-by-step process. Product manufacturers, distributors, or brand owners should begin the process by creating an application on the BioPreferred Web site. Do not contact a third party laboratory for product testing first, as testing conducted outside the certification process steps will not be considered.

## Product Certification

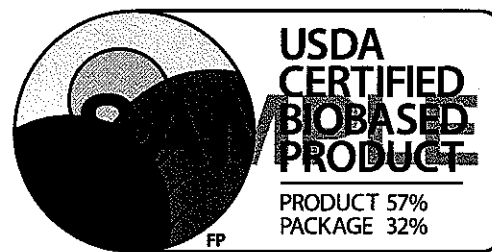
USDA will evaluate each application to determine if the product meets the above certification criteria, and a sample of the product must be tested for biobased content. USDA will certify products that meet the criteria and deny certification to those that do not. Applicants of certified products, once notified, may begin using the "USDA Certified Biobased Product" label. Explanations of denials will be provided to applicants; applications may be revised and resubmitted.

Certification will remain valid as long as the product is manufactured in accordance with the information supplied in the approved application. If USDA revises the applicable required minimum biobased content for a product, manufacturers and vendors may continue to label their previously certified product only if it meets the new minimum biobased content level.

## USDA Certified Biobased Label Artwork

The emblem in the label is meant to represent the sun, soil/farm, and aquatic environments. The certification label is intended to be used only to represent products and packaging approved for the voluntary labeling program, including:

- On a qualifying product or package
- In product literature/advertisements, adjacent to a qualifying product or package
- On a website to identify a qualifying product or package
- On point-of-purchase materials



USDA Certified Biobased  
Product Label

## About the Certified Products

As of December 2012, USDA has certified 900 biobased products in more than 100 product categories. Certified products include construction, janitorial, and grounds keeping products specified and purchased by the Department of Defense and Federal agencies, to personal care and packaging products used by consumers every day.



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## Audit Program

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## USDA BioPreferred Program Audit Plan Summary

### What is the USDA BioPreferred Program Audit?

The USDA BioPreferred Program Audit sets in place the audit procedures for both the Procurement side of the program as well as the Labeling side of the program. The purpose is to monitor the validity of the participants' designated and certified biobased content claims; and, for the Labeling initiative, monitor the proper usage of the label in the marketplace. The audit consists of three (3) stages: 1) Bi-annual contact and participant response (2012, 2014, 2016...); 2) Retesting a sampling of participant's products (2014); and 3) Retesting all participant's products (2016).

### Why is this audit necessary?

The audit will ensure the integrity of the voluntary biobased product certification and labeling initiative and the preferred federal procurement initiative. The audits provide oversight and monitoring of the products affiliated with the program to ensure the products' biobased content information is accurate and that they products meet the requirements of both initiatives.

### What is the timing of the USDA BioPreferred product audits?

**Stage 1** of the audit will be conducted bi-annually and completed in the first half of the year for both programs. **Stage 2** auditing is tentatively slated to be conducted in 2014, unless other issues impact alteration of dates. **Stage 3** auditing is only for the Labeling Program and the audit for this stage is slated to begin in 2016.

### How was Stage 1 Auditing conducted?

This stage (completed in 2012) involved contacting all participants via email and requesting that they complete a "Declaration of Conformance Form." Program participants confirmed if they still manufactured the product, and whether or not the formulation/manufacturing processes had changed. They listed all active products and advised if any complaints have been received regarding the claim of the biobased content.

The participant had 30 days to respond, when no response was received, a second email was sent with a 15 day response time. When no response was received, a phone call was made to non-responders. When there was still no response, the participant received a notice of suspension with 30 days to comply and they had to discontinue using the label and their product was removed from the USDA website and catalog. The participant had to reapply, which included retesting at their

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Key Initiatives

- ☐ GSA Biobased Procurement Tool
- ☐ IAS Biobased Data E
- ☐ Contractor's Biobased Reporting Link
- ☐ Label
- ☐ Catalog
- ☐ Federal Procurement Preference

I Want To.....

- ☐ Buy Biobased Product
- ☐ Apply for Label
- ☐ Sell Biobased Product
- ☐ Existing User Account

own expense in order to have their product accepted back into the program.

### **What are Stage 1 Audit results?**

**Label Usage Audit** - Of the companies audited, 76% were using the label on their websites and other media advertising correctly, with 13% having minor violations and 11% with more serious violations.

**Certified Products** - Only 2% of the total products certified were removed from the program. The reasons for being removed consisted of: 1) no response (7%); 2) product no longer manufactured (41%) and 3) change in biobased content (7%). All companies with certified products responded except 3% of total population.

**Designated Products** - 67% of the companies with designated products responded to the audit. Thirty percent (30%); of these products were removed from the catalog. The following is a breakdown of the reasons for removal: 1) no response (62%); 2) no longer manufactured (25%); 3) modification of product listings (7%); 4) the company requested removal from the program (4%); 5) product no longer meets minimum requirement (2%) and other reasons, less than 1%.

Please refer here for more details.

### **How will Stage 2 Auditing be conducted?**

This stage involves a sampling of approximately 50 certified products from selected companies to confirm the accuracy of biobased percentages claimed. The participants whose products have been selected will be contacted via email and by phone and requested to complete a "Documentation of Sample Selection, Shipping, and Disposal by Manufacturer/Vendor Form". The participant will then select a representative sample and ship the sample along with the "Documentation of Sample Selection, Shipping, and Disposal by Manufacturer/Vendor Form" to an accepted laboratory as defined in the email. The sample will follow the normal testing procedure and the results will be provided to the USDA and the participant. The test results will be compared to the current biobased percentage. If the biobased percentage is within +/- 3 percent, the participant's product will remain as certified in the program. If the biobased percentage is not within +/- 3 percent, the participant will be contacted to determine the cause.

### **How will Stage 3 Auditing be conducted?**

This stage will involve retesting of certified products only that have been certified for a specified period of time.

All appeals from participants/companies must be made in writing to USDA with supporting documentation for their appeal.

### **Who can I contact for more information?**

For more information, you can contact Kate Lewis, Deputy Program Manager at (202) 720-0811, email: [kate.lewis@dm.usda.gov](mailto:kate.lewis@dm.usda.gov).